

APPROVED

October 14, 2015

MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
18753-210 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland

In Attendance:

Board Members:

James Shalleck, President
Nahid Khozeimeh, Vice President
Mary Ann Keeffe, Secretary
Alex Vincent
David Naimon
Jacqueline Phillips
Graciela Rivera-Oven

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Election Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Election Director
Laletta Dorsey, Acting Voter Registration Manager
Lisa Merino, Office Services Coordinator
Janet Ross, Information Technology Manager
Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager
Leslie Woods Election Judge Coordinator

Counsel:

Kevin Karpinski

Guests:

Darrell Anderson
Paul Bessel
Barbara Braswell
Sharon Cohen
Sylvia Darrow
Arthur Edmunds
Pat Fenati
Adam Fogel
Kevin Gillogly
Marjorie Goldman
Pat Grant
Laurie Halverson
Raymond Holt

Tom Hucker
Elbridge James
Pauline Johnson
Sidney Katz
Cleat Kennedy
Dolly Kildee
Dave Kunes
Vivian Malloy
Dan McHugh
Karen Murphy
Kenneth Nelson
Anita Neal Powell
Vernon Ricks
Jonathon Shurberg

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David Smith
Roselyn Soref
Nancy Soreng
Michael Subin
Jeffery Thomas
Cameron Thompson

Venattia Vann
Helen Valone
Hitesh Virmani
Josephine Wang
Karen Ye

Convene the Board Meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

Mr. Shalleck called the Board meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Shalleck acknowledged that there would be an opportunity to give public comments.

Public Comments

Pat Fenati, Damascus resident, spoke in favor of the Early Voting site in Damascus. She stated that there has been insufficient advertising for the location, which may have contributed to low turnout.

Josephine Wang, City of Gaithersburg resident, spoke in favor of the Potomac Early Voting site. She stated that there is a high concentration of Chinese voters. Ms. Wang recommended that multi-lingual literature be accessible at all Early Voting sites and requested that election judges have further training.

Darrell Anderson, Chair of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, expressed concern in placing accessible Early Voting sites for voters. He added that he had assisted in the implementation of Early Voting sites in 2006/2007 and was involved in placing the initial 5 Early Voting sites using a 50% coverage area requirement of the State; he noted that the current 9 sites need to cover an 80% coverage area. Mr. Anderson stated that voter turnout increases when sites remain at the same location. He urged the Board reconsider the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center and the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center.

Dan McHugh, Vice President of the Montgomery County Young Republicans and Gaithersburg resident, stated 77% of the Early Voting sites used in the past election are being recommended. He stated that the sites selected by the Board passed by a majority vote of 3 to 2 and should stand. He stated that Democrats will be dissatisfied until they get all the sites back. Mr. McHugh stated that he hopes that the Potomac Early Voting site is retained.

David Smith, Rockville resident and Election Judge, expressed the importance of accessible voting. He stated that the Potomac and Olney sites have minimal public transportation. Mr. Smith stated that the public is seeing this as a partisan issue and of an issue of voter suppression. He stated that it is unfortunate, as it demeans the system.

Mr. Vincent asked Mr. Smith if he has any evidence that voters had difficulty getting to a voting site due to lack of a vehicle or public transportation. He stated that in 2008 there was record breaking turnout and that it is unclear how many voters needed public transportation to access an Early Voting site. Mr. Smith responded that he has no evidence and agreed with the

statement, but stated that Lawton is located in a dense area and that the Praisner community would have difficulty accessing the Olney site.

Vivian Malloy, an Olney resident, stated that she considers Olney to be mid-county and that she had served on the Democratic Central Committee in the past. She also stated that she had been involved with Early Voting site selection when she served as Chair for the Central Committee. She added that careful criteria were used in selecting the sites. Mrs. Malloy spoke in support of the Marilyn Praisner Early Voting site.

Mr. Vincent asked Mrs. Malloy to clarify her involvement in selecting sites. She responded that the central committee submitted recommendations. Mr. Vincent asked if the central committee had its own slate of recommendations submitted to the Board during the last election cycle. Mrs. Malloy stated that she did not serve on the committee during the last cycle, but that it is the process that recommendations are submitted to the Board of Elections. Mr. Naimon inquired if the recommendations were done in a public forum. Mrs. Malloy stated that written documentation was provided.

Elbridge James, representing the Montgomery County NAACP and the State of Maryland NAACP, spoke in opposition to moving Early Voting sites for the 2016 election cycle. (See attachment A).

Karen Murphy, Kensington resident, asked that the Board consider accessibility to Early Voting sites whether via personal vehicles or public transportation. She stated that Potomac has bus service two times a day.

Sylvia Darrow, Falls Road and Montrose resident since 1968, stated that the T2 travels every hour from 6:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., with a direct stop in front of the Potomac Community Recreation Center. She added that the nearest Early Voting site would be the Executive Office Building which has limited parking in the area. Ms. Darrow advocated for an Early Voting site in Potomac.

Holly Joseph, Bethesda resident, stated support for sites placed where voters go. Ms. Joseph stated that sites should not be moved or changed without a compelling reason. She stated that she has been advocating for her polling place to be moved back into her precinct. Mr. Naimon asked that she submit polling place recommendations to the Board.

Mr. Naimon questioned statistics previously provided by Mr. Vincent regarding the population coverage for early voting sites. Ms. Jurgensen stated that no official numbers of area coverage of proposed sites have been provided by the State.

Laurie Halverson, Potomac resident, stated that the nearest Early Voting site to her is the Executive Office Building (EOB) in Rockville, which is 15 minutes from her residence. Ms. Halverson stated that when she ran for the Board of Education during that last election, she had the opportunity to campaign at several Early Voting sites. During her appearance at the EOB, she noticed several disgruntled elderly voters who wanted accessible parking in the circle. She argued in favor of an Early Voting site in Potomac.

Mr. Shalleck thanked all those in attendance. He added that numerous emails and comments were received. He stated that there had never been any intention of voter suppression but that he understands the public's concerns.

Reconsideration of Early Voting Sites

Mr. Shalleck made a motion to replace Longwood Recreation Center in Brookville with the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center in Burtonsville. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent.

Ms. Keeffe made a motion to amend Mr. Shalleck's motion to replace Potomac Community Recreation Center with Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Naimon.

Ms. Keeffe spoke in favor of her amendment by describing her assessment of the sites named in the amendment and strongly recommended that the Board pass the amendment.

Mr. Naimon spoke in favor of the amendment, stating that he supported the selection of Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center. He provided statistical maps in support of his assessment of traffic volume and car ownership data for the proposed site. (See attachments B through E).

Mr. Vincent spoke in opposition to the amendment and stated his assessment of the proposed compromise. He urged the Board to reject the amendment. Mr. Naimon, Mr. Vincent, and Mrs. Keeffe discussed the amendment.

The Board voted on Ms. Keeffe's amendment. Ms. Keeffe and Mr. Naimon voted for the amendment. Mr. Shalleck, Mrs. Khozeimeh, and Mr. Vincent voted against the amendment. The amendment failed.

Mr. Naimon made a motion to amend Mr. Shalleck's motion to replace Damascus Community Recreation Center with Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center. The motion was seconded by Ms. Keeffe.

Mr. Naimon spoke in favor of his amendment with his assessment of sites proposed.

Ms. Keeffe spoke in support of the amendment.

The Board voted on Mr. Naimon's amendment. Ms. Keeffe and Mr. Naimon voted for the amendment. Mr. Shalleck, Mrs. Khozeimeh, and Mr. Vincent voted against the amendment. The amendment failed.

Ms. Phillips stated that voters have other opportunities to vote other than Early Voting, which include absentee voting and voting on Election Day.

The Board voted on Mr. Shalleck's amendment. Mr. Shalleck, Mrs. Khozeimeh and Mr. Vincent voted for the amendment. Ms. Keeffe and Mr. Naimon voted against the amendment. The motion passed.

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Mr. Shalleck stated that the Early Voting sites proposed to the State Board of Elections are Mid-County Community Recreation Center, Executive Office Building, Germantown Community Recreation Center, Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center, Silver Spring Civic Building, Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Damascus Community Recreation Center, Potomac Community Recreation Center, and Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad.


Future Meetings

- A. October 19, 2015
- B. November 16, 2015
- C. December 14, 2015

Adjournment

Ms. Khozeimeh moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Merino
Office Services Coordinator

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:



Jim Shalleck
President

TO: NAACP Members

FROM: Montgomery County MD Branch, NAACP # 7022
Anita Neal Powell, President

ACTION ALERT – ACTION NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

CALL MARYLAND BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO STOP MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOE FROM CHANGING EARLY ELECTION SITES THAT WILL WEAKEN MINORITY VOTING OPPORTUNITIES AND TURNOUT- KEEP CURRENT SITES.

The new majority on the Montgomery County Board of Elections, led by an appointee of Gov. Larry Hogan (R), voted Monday to shift two heavily used early-voting sites to less populous locations, prompting minority and progressive activist to charge voter suppression.

The board voted 3 to 2 to move early voting from the Marilyn Praisner Community Center in Burtonsville, which serves high-poverty East County communities along U.S. 29, to the Longwood Community Recreation Center in Brookeville, 13 miles to the northwest. (has limited bus service)

The panel also shifted early balloting from the Jane Lawton Community Recreation Center in Chevy Chase, about a half-mile from the Bethesda Metro station, to the Potomac Community Recreation Center, on Falls Road, 10 miles to the northwest. (No metro access; and located in a low traffic area)

Falls Road Community Center is isolated and on a narrow road-will get less than half the traffic compared to Bethesda site.

Unlike on Election Day, when voters must go to their assigned precincts, early-voting sites are open to all voters in the county. More than 8,000 people cast early ballots at the Lawton and Praisner centers in the 2014 general election, more than 20 percent of Montgomery's total.

The **Marilyn Praisner Community Center** is a **good location** for voter turnout and is a highly used early voting site. It meets each of the Montgomery County Board of Elections criteria for consideration as an early-voting site because:

- It had the second highest number of voters during early voting in 2014 (second to Silver Spring Civic Center);
- It is situated in a high-density area of the county with no other voting site in close proximity;
- It is in an area of the county with a high number of low-to-middle class voters; and
- it is in an area of the county with a high percentage of minorities and underserved voters.

Unlike the Praisner Center, the Longwood Center is a small facility located in a largely rural area (north of Route 108) with limited access to public transportation (i.e., local bus service only during the rush hour), and less than one-third the parking spaces with a 20% reduction in voting space capacity.

Need action to call/fax/email MD State BOE by noon September 24, 2015.

The **phone number** to the BOE is **410 269-2840** or **800 222-8683**.

The **Fax numbers** are: **410 974-2019; 410 974-5415; 410 974-5126**.

The **email** to the State BOE is **info.sbe@maryland.gov**.

In the state of Maryland, the Board of Election (BOE) has majority membership from persons with the same Party affiliation as the Governor. With the last Gubernatorial election, the Party affiliation of the County BOEs changed.

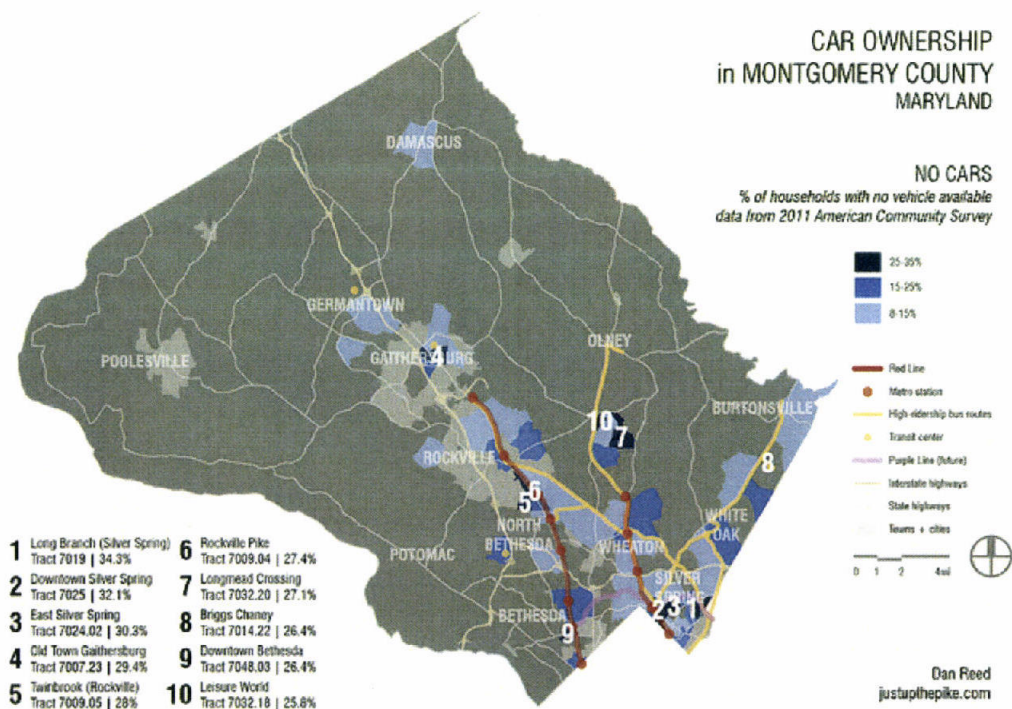
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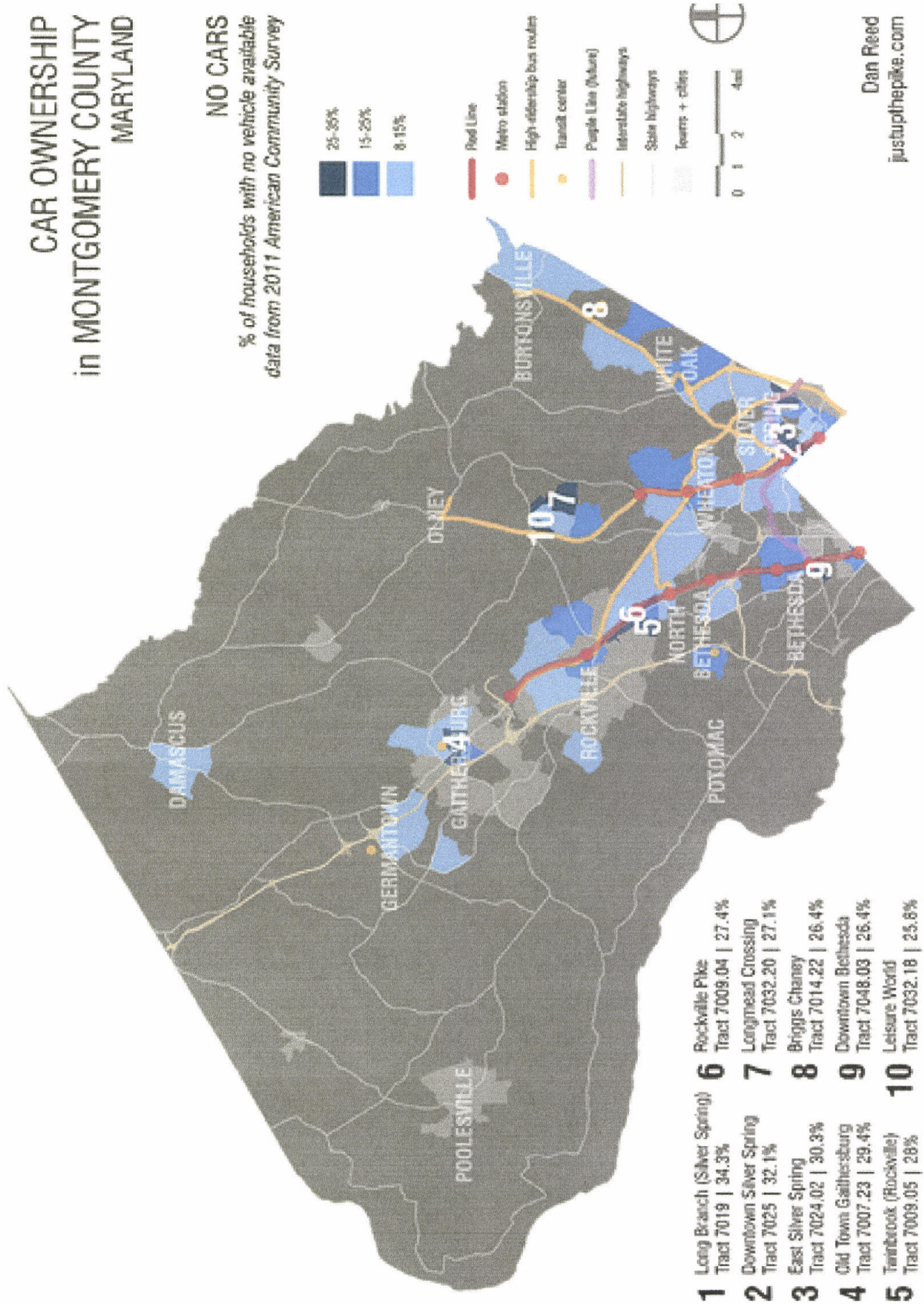
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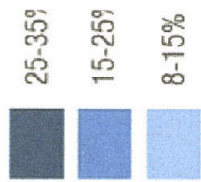
CAR OWNERSHIP in MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND

NO CARS
% of households with no vehicle available
data from 2011 American Community Survey

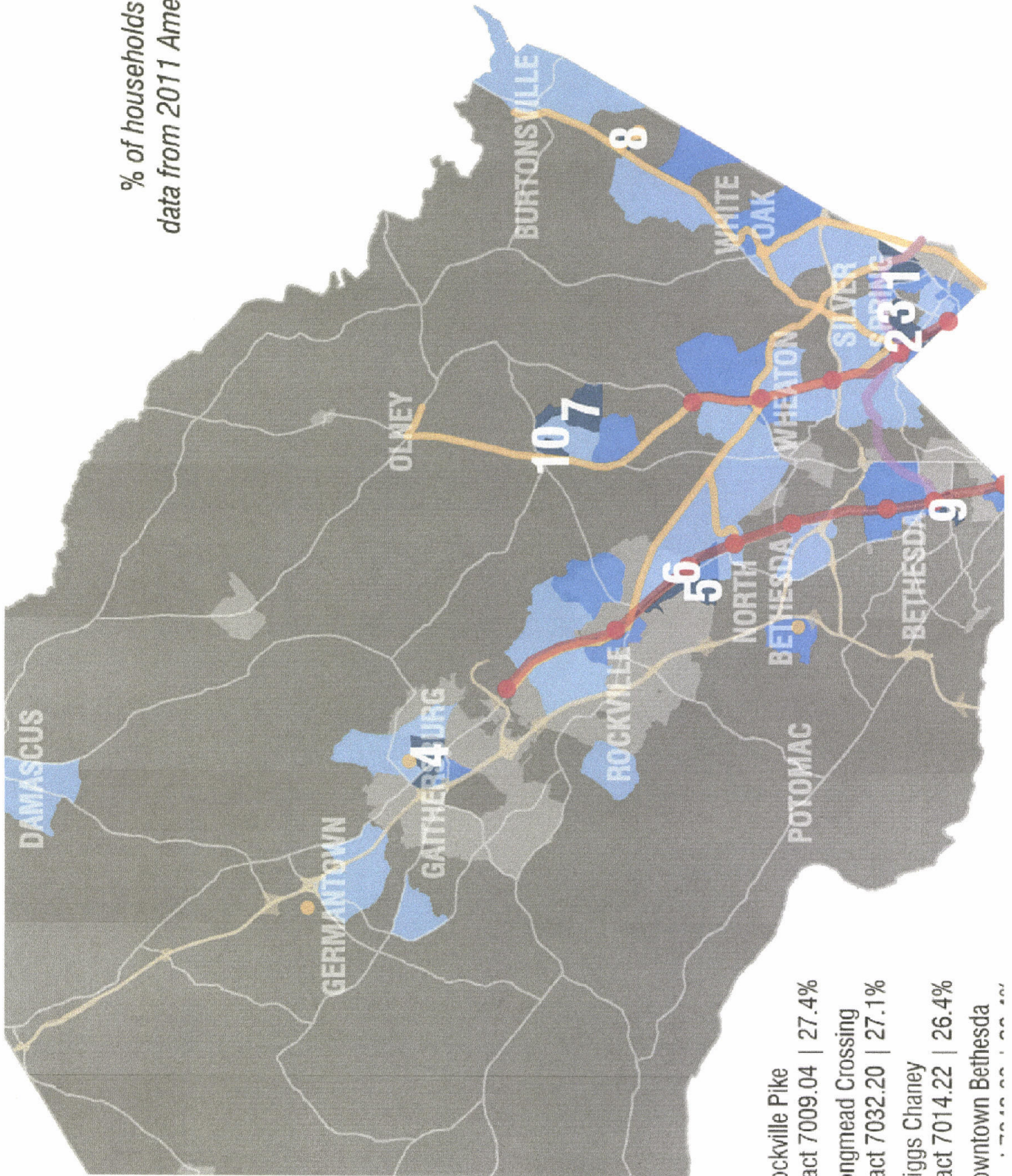


Dan Reed
justupthepike.com

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% of households with no vehicle
data from 2011 American Community Survey



Attachment D



Rockville Pike
act 7009.04 | 27.4%
Ingmead Crossing
act 7032.20 | 27.1%
Iggs Chaney
act 7014.22 | 26.4%
Downtown Bethesda

